

Newsletter



University of Malaya-Kyoto University
Secretariat



Kyoto University
Graduate School of Engineering
JSPS Asian Core Program (IWM)

Issue August 2013
7 Vol. 3



The JSPS Asian Core Program 5th Steering Committee Meeting was held successfully on 4th July, 2013 at De Palma Hotel, Kuala Selangor.

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A group picture of the participants of the Transboundary Waters Assessment Project-Lake Group (TWAP-LG) Inaugural Expert Group Meeting on 13-16 May 2013 at ILEC, Japan.

University of Malaya-Kyoto University program
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SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE
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Asian Core Program

Research and Education Center for the Risk Based Asian Oriented Integrated Watershed Management

JSPS Asian Core Program 5th Steering Committee Meeting

3-5 July 2013

De Palma Hotel, Kuala Selangor, MALAYSIA

On 3rd-5th July 2013, the University of Malaya hosted the 5th Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science Asian Core Program Steering Committee Meeting (JSPS ACP SCM5). The JSPS Asian Core Program is an international collaboration between Japanese and Malaysian universities under the research theme of “Research and Education Centre for the Risk Based Asian Oriented Integrated Watershed Management.” The JSPS ACP SCM5 is a bi-annual event, with Kyoto University and Universiti Malaya taking turns to host the meeting.

The Meeting was held at De Palma Hotel Kuala Selangor, located within the Selangor River Basin which is one of the research locations of interest for the Asian Core Program. A total of 18 Japanese and 11 Malaysian delegates comprising Program and Group leaders as well as academicians, researchers and students attended the event.

During the meeting on 4 July 2013, Asian Core Program Coordinators Prof. Yoshihisa Shimizu and Prof. Nik Meriam Nik Sulaiman delivered the opening address with an overall summary of past activities until the end of March 2013. Each group leader then gave their reports on completed and upcoming research activities within their respective groups, as follows:

1. Prof. Zulkifli Yusop (G1- Hydrology)
2. Prof. Yoshihisa Shimizu (G2- Water Quality),
3. Dr. Faridah Othman (Representing Prof. Ghazaly Md. Shaaban of Water Quality Group- G2)
4. Prof. Minoru Yoneda (G3- Environmental Risk)
5. Prof. Mazlin Mokhtar (G3- Environmental Risk)
6. Prof. Azizan Baharuddin (G4- Governance)
7. Prof. Masahisa Nakamura (G4- Governance)

Finally, after a discussion on other matters, the meeting was adjourned and concluded with a gift exchange ceremony and group photography session.

Fieldtrips - 4th and 5th July 2013

Fieldtrips were organized to various locations around Kuala Selangor. On 4th July, delegates visited the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) Nature Park. At the Nature Park, Mr. Sonny Wong and Mr. Ashok from MNS shared their experiences on the threat of pollution on the wetlands situated within the Park itself, which is ecologically significant as a migration point for birds from all



Prof. Nik presenting her opening address



Prof. Shimizu presenting his opening address



*Group leaders and representatives from Malaysia and Japan presenting their activity report.
From left: Prof. Zulkifli Yusop, Prof. Yoshihisa Shimizu, Dr. Faridah Othman, Prof. Minoru Yoneda,
Prof. Mazlin Mokhtar, Prof. Azizan Baharuddin, Prof. Masahisa Nakamura*



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over the world. In the evening, the participants were awed by the beauty of fireflies at the Kampung Kuantan Firefly Sanctuary in Kuala Selangor. The participants also learned about the community relying on tourist support for their livelihood, demonstrating the interrelation between environmental health and economic wellbeing.

The Pahang-Selangor Raw Water Transfer tunnel site visit was held the following day, on 5th July. Delegates were briefed on the safety features and construction of the tunnel, as well as challenges and successes in the project implementation. Overall, the participants were able to have a bigger picture of water-related issues in Malaysia, allowing for knowledge sharing between Malaysian and Japanese delegates.



Prof. Awang Bulgiba sharing his comments during the meeting



Sharing a light-hearted moment during the group photography session



Q&A session on the Pahang-Selangor Water Transfer Tunnel at the SNUI-JV site office



At the 'international airport' for migratory birds, within MNS Nature Park



Excited faces after a glimpse of the fireflies at the Kampung Kuantan Firefly Sanctuary



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Transboundary Water Assessment Programme (TWAP) - Lake Group Preparatory Expert Group Meeting and Inaugural Planning Meeting

13-16 May 2013

International Lake Environment Committee, JAPAN



Prof. Dr. Mazlin Mokhtar
Institute for Environment and
Development (LESTARI)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia



Dr. Lee Jing
Institute for Environment and
Development (LESTARI)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

The International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) in Japan recently organised the Preparatory Expert Group Meeting and the Inaugural Planning Meeting at ILEC from 13th—16th of May 2013 with participants from Japan, USA, China, Malaysia, and Mexico. Prof. Dr. Mazlin Mokhtar and Dr. Lee Jing were invited to participate in the Meetings through the ACP-JSPS program.

The Meetings were set out to conceptualise research on lake basins under the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP) and aimed to make a global assessment of five waterbodies, which are rivers, lakes, groundwaters, large marine ecosystems and open oceans.

The Preparatory Expert Group Meeting (13-14th May 2013) kicked off with an introduction on the objectives and targeted output of TWAP, where target output aims to produce an assessment methodology for the prioritisation of lakes in peril. The initial overlay analysis of continental and sub-continental level GIS outputs was presented by Prof. Dr. Walter Rast and based on that analysis, an exploratory analysis of the planning and governance scenarios was conducted by Prof. Dr. Masahisa Nakamura. The analysis was further strengthened by a presentation on a GIS-based climate change driven water stress analysis by Dr. Keisuke Sato.



Participants listened attentively to Prof. Nakamura during the Preparatory Technical Working Group Meeting sessions held on 13 May 2013.



Dr. Sato presenting the effects of climate change on the level of water stress in Day One of the Preparatory Technical Working Group Meeting.

The second day of the Preparatory Expert Group Meeting started with a reinstatement of the overview of TWAP Project, where the Lake Group Approach was presented. The after-lunch sessions concentrated on trans-media and transboundary water system analysis, where examples from Lake Biwa-Yodo River-Osaka Bay (Japan); Pahang River-Lake Chini-South China Sea (Malaysia); and Lerma River-Lake Chapala-Santiago River-Pacific Ocean (Mexico) were presented.

The TWAP Inaugural Planning Meeting (15-16th May 2013) revisited the discussions conducted during the Preparatory Expert Group Meeting and focused on the assessment of the matrix structure for Target Output 1 where the proposed assessment parameters and data sources are reviewed. The applicability of the trans-jurisdictional experiences presented the day before on the assessment conducted under TWAP were also discussed. Further analysis on the effects of climate



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change on the level of water stress was carried out, recognising the impact of climate change on water security that could influence how lakes in peril are prioritised. The second day of the Inaugural Planning Meeting reviewed the discussion of the previous day and outlaid key thematic issues in TWAP. Apart from that, the Meeting introduced the LAKES-III mechanism that supports current work on TWAP. The Meeting concluded with setting out some preliminary planning and the way forward for Regional Expert Group Meetings to be held in Southeast Asia, East Asia, South Asia and Africa.

Apart from that, the organiser of the Meetings arranged for the participants to visit the Lake Biwa Gallery during lunch, led by Ms Yasue Hagihara. The participants were brought for visits to Lake Biwa, the weir, the northern part of Lake Biwa, and the canals engineered by a young engineer that supplied water to Kyoto. The participants benefitted much from the walk along the Philosopher's Walk graced by many Nobel Laureates.



*Tracing the canals to Kyoto: A field trip to Kyoto.
From left to right: Dr. Zati Sharif, Prof. Dr. Mazlin Mokhtar, Prof. Walter Rast, and Dr. Zhengyu Hu.*



Participants were fascinated by the bathing unit from the Kabata era during the Lake Biwa Gallery visit.



*A visit to Lake Biwa.
From left to right: Prof. Dr. Mazlin Mokhtar (Malaysia),
Dr. Lee Jing (Malaysia), Dr. Zhengyu Hu (China),
Prof. Masahisa Nakamura (Japan),
Ms. Laura Parchman (USA), Dr. Hebin Lin (China),
and Dr. Sergio Antonio Silva Munoz (Mexico).*



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Research and Education Center for the Risk Based Asian Oriented Integrated Watershed Management

“Heartware and Integrated Watershed Management” Knowledge Sharing Seminar

30 May 2013

University of Malaya, MALAYSIA



Dr. Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad
Department of Science and
Technology Studies
Faculty of Science
University of Malaya



Dr. Nisfariza Mohd Noor
Department Of Geography
Faculty of Arts and Social
Sciences
University of Malaya



Dr. Wan Mohd Yusof Wan Chik
Faculty of Islamic Contemporary
Studies
Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin

On 30th May 2013, a knowledge-sharing seminar on “Heartware and Integrated Water Management (IWM)” was held at the Research Management and Innovation Complex (RMIC), University of Malaya. This seminar was held as a follow-up from the learning experience gained during the Heartware Expert Meeting and Symposium held in Japan, which was hosted by Prof. Dr. Masahisa Nakamura. 25 participants from *Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)*, *Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)*, Kyoto University and University of Malaya (UM) participated in this knowledge-sharing session.

The seminar commenced with welcoming remarks from Prof. Datin Dr Azizan Baharuddin who stressed on the importance of Heartware which can be applied as a conceptual tool for Malaysia. The three Malaysian JSPS-ACP Program members who participated in the Heartware Expert Meeting in Japan then took turns to share their learning experiences from the Meeting in Japan. Dr. Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad’s presentation focused on Heartware and sustainability in the context of Integrated Watershed Management (IWM). Subsequently Dr. Wan Mohd Yusof Wan Chik shared his views on the relationship between Heartware and water from the Islamic perspective. Dr. Nisfariza Mohd Noor then suggested possible ways of implementing the concept of Heartware with regards to spatial-related issues. Mr. Sonny Wong from the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) was also invited to share his experience of firefly habitat conservation through *Persatuan Aktiviti Penjagaan Alam Sekitar Mukim Pasangan (PAPARAN)* in Kuala Selangor.

A sharing session moderated by Prof. Azizan and Dr Zeeda was held towards the end of the event. During this time, the participants took the opportunity to respond and share their opinions on Heartware and how this concept can be used for IWM governance in Malaysia.



Captions:

1. Mr. Sonny Wong sharing PAPARAN’s work on firefly habitat conservation.
2. An attentive audience during the presentations
- 3-6. Participants taking turns to respond during the sharing session



Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) Stakeholders Round Table Discussion

6 June 2013

Department of Geography, University of Malaya, MALAYSIA



Prof. Dr. Jamilah Mohamad
Department of Geography
Faculty of Arts and Social
Sciences
University of Malaya

A Stakeholders Roundtable Discussion was convened on June 6, 2013 to discuss the issues, challenges and strategies to enhance a good watershed governance. The Roundtable Discussion was organized under the *Governance of Land-Use Conflicts in the Sungai Selangor Watershed* project helmed by Prof. Dr. Jamilah Mohamad. Stakeholder representatives from government agencies related to the watershed governance issues were invited to share ideas and to discuss management issues regarding the watershed governance of Sungai Selangor. The four government agencies were Majlis Daerah Kuala Selangor (MDKS), Majlis Daerah Hulu Selangor (MDHS), Majlis Perbandaran Selayang (MPS) and Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS). In total, 45 participants comprising stakeholder representatives, academics and students attended the roundtable discussion.

The specific objectives of the roundtable discussion were to: discuss the issues and problems encountered in relation to good governance of Sungai Selangor's water catchment area; identify conflicts of land use changes and its impact on the watershed and identify strategies to improve the system of governance in Sungai Selangor.

During the Roundtable discussion the following strategies were identified to strengthen watershed governance in the Selangor water catchment:

- Strengthen policies and implementation capacity
- Increase stakeholder participation
- Strengthen support from Federal and State authorities
- Implement Drainage Master Plan
- Systematic improvement of the river inventory

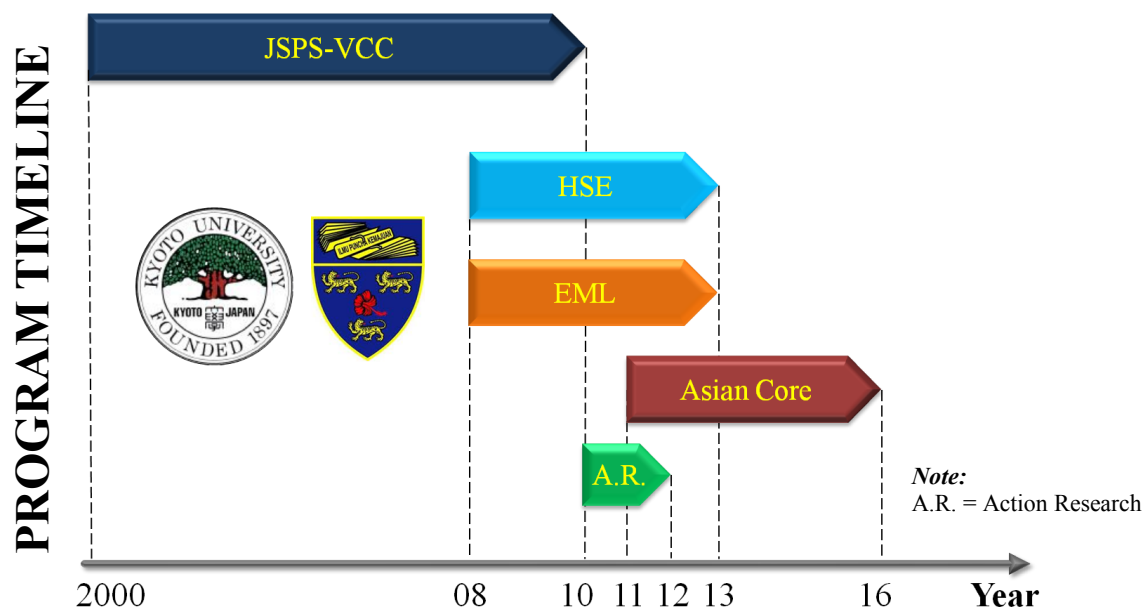


Welcoming Speech by Prof. Jamilah Mohamad

The Roundtable Discussion has benefitted the two-way relationship between government agencies and academia. It was concluded that the absence of strong political support and interagency collaboration in managing the environmental issues constrain the successful implementation of watershed governance in Sungai Selangor. Other constraints include the lack of comprehensive policies, regulatory framework and financial sustainability. To advance the debate and action on water governance, the multi-actor groups must work together closely to resolve environmental problems at the watershed scale.



From left to right: (1) YDP from Kuala Selangor Local Authority delivering her presentation; (2) Director of LUAS delivering his presentation; (3) Active participation during the Roundtable



Programs and its duration under international collaboration between Kyoto University and University of Malaya

Upcoming Event:
3rd Comprehensive Symposium (CS3)
Date: 28-29 October 2013
Location: Kyoto University (Uji Campus), Japan



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